

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2156

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UNCLAS MOSCOW 13388

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEWT, UR

SUBJECT INQUIRY ON PURCHASE OF SOVIET LIBERTY SHIPS

1. MR. MICHAEL ARWAS OF COMMERICAL METALS (EUROPA) B. V. CALLED AT COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS FIRMS'S ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE LEND LEASE "LIBERTY SHIPS" FROM SOVIETS. NEGOTIATIONS WITH FTO SUDOIMPORT HAVE BEEN HELD UP DUE TO REQUIREMENT THAT RESALE OF LEND LEASE MATERIAL BE APPROVED BY USG.

2. ACCORDING TO ARWAS, COMMERICAL METALS' U.S. AGENT (NATHAN ASSOCIATES, WASHINGTON D.C.) HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH BOTH STATE AND COMMERCE IN ORDER TO INITIATE REQUIRED USG APPROVAL . ADVICE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED WAS THAT SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO MAKE REQUEST TO USG, WHICH WOULD THEN APPROVED SALE. IN FACE OF SOVIET RELUCTANCE (IN SOVIET MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE) TO MAKE SUCH REQUEST, DEAL HAS BEEN HELD UP. ARWAS NOW SEEKING FURTHER ADVICE ON WHETHER USG CAN ISSUE SUCH APPROVAL EVEN WITHOUT SPECIFIC SOVIET REQUEST.

3. EMBASSY ADVISED ARWAS TO PURSUE MATTER IN WASHINGTON THROUGH FIRM'S U.S. OFFICE. THIS MESSAGE INTENDED TO ALERT STATE AND COMMERCE TO SUCH INQUIRY.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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